(b) whether a demand has also been made to provide flights for all parts of the country from there; and

(c) if so, what is Government's response to these demands?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) A request has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan for construction of an airport at Ajmer. The Airports Authority of India has identified a possible site for construction of a new airport at Ajmer. The proposal is at a preliminary stage at present.

New airport in Uttarkashi

2377. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi;

(b) whether any helipad airport is functioning in Uttarkashi;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are going to construct a new airport in Uttarkashi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (d) There is a small airstrip belonging to the State Government at Chinyali Saur in Uttarkashi Block. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plans at present to construct a new airport in or around Uttarkashi.

Upgradation of fleet operation

2378. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any commendable steps to upgrade fleet operation of national airlines in comparison with foreign airlines during the last three years in keeping with the competition:

(b) if so, the details thereof: and